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EZ2:

SERIAL: DIADIN 283-10A

SUBJ: LIBYA: QADHAFI SPEECH. (U)

DOI: 10 OCT 86 (AS OF 1535 EDT)

TEXT: 1. (U) LIBYAN LEADER COL QADHAFI, DURING A SPEECH  
COMMEMORATING THE 16TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OFFICIAL END OF ITALIAN  
AUTHORITY IN LIBYA, CALLED AGAIN FOR DEFENSIVE MEASURES AGAINST A US  
ATTACK AND THREATENED THE USE OF TERRORISM.

2. (U) QADHAFI AND HIS DEPUTY, JALLUD, WERE IN SURT ON 7 OCTOBER  
TO MARK THE COMMEMORATION. THE LIBYAN LEADER CALLED ON HIS PEOPLE  
TO MINE THE COAST AND TO FORTIFY THE COUNTRY WITH TRENCHES AND  
BARBED WIRE. MOREOVER, HE THREATENED, DESPITE HIS DENIAL OF ITS USE  
IN THE PAST, TO EMPLOY TERRORISM AGAINST THE US IF WASHINGTON  
ATTACKS HIS COUNTRY AGAIN.

3. (U) QADHAFI ALSO SPOKE OF AN INTERNATIONAL ARMY WITH HIMSELF AS  
ITS HEAD TO "FINISH OFF" THE US. HE SAID SUCH AN EFFORT IS  
NECESSARY BECAUSE EVEN MOSCOW WILL NOT CONFRONT WASHINGTON BECAUSE  
IT FEARS A WORLD WAR. QADHAFI CLAIMED THE US WANTS TO OCCUPY LIBYA  
AS A BASE AGAINST THE USSR. HE AGAIN CALLED ON ROME TO PAY  
COMPENSATION FOR "CRIMES" DURING THE COLONIAL ERA, CITING GERMANY'S  
PAYMENTS TO ISRAEL AFTER THE NAZI PERIOD AS A PRECEDENT. QADHAFI  
URGED ITALIANS TO TAKE THEIR GOVERNMENT TO TASK FOR ALLOWING NATO

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BASES TO BE USED BY THE US AGAINST LIBYA, AND HE AGAIN THREATENED TO RETALIATE IF US FORCES ATTACKED LIBYA FROM BASES IN THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES. THE LIBYAN LEADER URGED HIS PEOPLE TO TAKE REVENGE ON ITALIANS IF THE TWO ISSUES OF COMPENSATION AND THE US USE OF BASES ARE NOT RESOLVED. HE ALSO CONDEMNED THE ICELAND SUMMIT, SAYING IT WOULD BE USED TO DISCREDIT MOSCOW AND TO CAST DOUBT ON ITS LOYALTY TO ITS FRIENDS.

4. (C) COMMENT: MUCH OF THE RHETORIC IN QADHAFI'S SPEECH HAS BEEN SAID BEFORE, INCLUDING THE URGENT CALL TO IMPROVE DEFENSES. THE SIZE OF THE AUDIENCE OR ITS REACTION, HOWEVER, IS UNDETERMINED. NONETHELESS, THE ADDRESS, ALONG WITH QADHAFI'S PERFORMANCE DURING THE 1 SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARY OF THE REVOLUTION APPEARANCES AND DURING THE EXTENDED, HIGH-PROFILE NONALIGNED MOVEMENT TRIP LAST MONTH, REINFORCES THE IMPRESSION THAT THE LIBYAN LEADER RETAINS FULL CONTROL OF THE COUNTRY AND HAS REGAINED HIS CONFIDENCE.

PREP: 

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DECL: OADR

END OF MESSAGE

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